



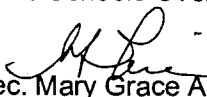
Office of the President of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS



"Responding to the Challenges of Migration and Development"

September 3, 2013

TO: Philippine Schools Overseas

FROM: 
Usec. Mary Grace Ampil-Tirona
Executive Director
Commission on Filipinos Overseas
Project Director – Virtual Sentro Rizal

ATTENTION: Principals and Faculty

**RE: I - Feedback on the Usage of the Virtual Sentro Rizal
II - Invitation to the International Conference on Filipino as a Global Language
III - Inter-School Culinary Competition 2013-14**

Greetings from the Commission on Filipinos Overseas!

We would like to give all PSOs, especially those who were not able to participate in the 11th Annual Conference last May, an update on interesting developments in which you may want to take an active part in the coming months.

I – Feedback on the Usage of the Virtual Sentro Rizal (VSR)

A. COPIES FOR ABSENT PSOs -- While our records show that 14 PSOs did not attend the 11th Annual Conference, and 13 were not able to receive their copy of the Virtual Sentro Rizal – please be informed that in the event a representative from your School is coming to Manila or a relative is planning to visit you – do let us know if he/she can pick up a copy from CFO on your behalf. Conversely, in the event we come across a willing courier, we will see to it that your copy is delivered to your PSO.

SEE: Attachment #1 - List of PSOs without VSRs

B. USAGE OF THE VSR -- As you know, the production of the VSR was funded by the National Commission for Culture & the Arts (NCCA). In compliance with Section 43, p. 30, of the *PSO Manual of Policies, Standards & Operations (2nd Edition)*, our intention was to provide each PSO with a multi-media Filipiniana collection as part of your Library reference materials for teachers and students of Social Studies, Music, the Arts, Physical Education, Health, Culinary Arts, etc. and whatever other subject areas the VSR might be of relevance. In this connection, and as required by the terms of reference of the NCCA project grant, we would like to request the following for inclusion in our Terminal Report for December 2013:

- 1. Feedback on Usage** – Data on frequency of borrower requests, comments on its usefulness/relevance, critique on its content, design, technological limitations, suggestions for improvement, etc. This report can be in the form of statistics or a narrative.

Deadline for Submission of Usage Feedback: October 31, 2013

2. **Development of Modules or Demonstration Lessons** – Some of your faculty in the abovementioned subject areas may be interested in preparing a Module or Demonstration Lesson using selected entries in the VSR collection. These should be documented – in print as well as photo or video where feasible – so that we can publish a compendium authored by PSO teachers. As a premium, in recognition of your efforts, we will give participating PSOs additional COMPLIMENTARY COPIES of the VSR.

Deadline for Confirmation of Participation: September 30, 2013

Deadline for Submission of Modules/Demonstration Lessons: October 31, 2013

II – Invitation to the 4th International Conference on Filipino as a Global Language, August 1-3, 2014, University of Hawaii, Honolulu

1. **Call for Papers/PSO Panel** – At the instance of the Global Consortium for the Advancement of Filipino Language and Culture (GLOCAFIL) and its lead convenor, Dr. Ruth Mabanglo of the University of Hawaii Dept. of Indo-Pacific Languages, Literature & Linguistics and *Pamana ng Lahi* 2012 Presidential Awardee, PSO administrators and faculty are being invited to participate in the International Conference on Filipino as a Global Language. (We have provided her the PSO Directory so that she can send the announcements directly to you. We will also upload all relevant information in the PSO Website.)

SEE: Attachment #2 – Announcement on the 4th International Conference on Filipino as a Global Language (as of August 13, 2013)

In my initial discussions with Dr. Mabanglo, we agreed that the conference is an excellent opportunity to SHOWCASE the work being done by the Philippine Schools Overseas which is really not well known whether in the Philippines or abroad. You may submit papers individually, or we can form a PSO panel to share your comparative/collective EXPERIENCES (difficulties, innovations etc.) and INSIGHTS into the teaching/learning/usage of Filipino among children of OFWs growing up in a cross-cultural setting. Conference participants will include Filipino, overseas Filipino and foreign scholars/experts interested in Philippine Studies. Dr. Mabanglo will provide more detailed/updated information regarding registration fees, logistical arrangements, visa requirements, etc. in due course. You may direct further inquiries &/or submit your proposals via e-mail: mabanglo@hawaii.edu

Deadline for the Submission of Proposals: November 14, 2013

2. **Confirmations** – For better coordination between ourselves, please let us (CFO) know if you are interested in attending the conference as a PARTICIPANT or OBSERVER so that we can determine the extent of our PSOs presence and how we can be of help in shaping your individual or panel presentations. Likewise, please indicate your preference, i.e., as an INDIVIDUAL PRESENTER or as a PANEL MEMBER.

Deadline for Advisory on Preference to CFO: October 31, 2013

III – Inter-School Culinary Competition 2013-14

1. **Background** -- For the benefit of the PSOs who did not attend the 11th Annual PSO Conference last May, attached is the Project Brief/Mechanics which we distributed during the launching dinner at the Aristocrat Restaurant hosted by Mama Sita Foundation, our project sponsor.

In line with the implementation of RA10533 - The Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013 which, among other things, gives Filipino students the option to pursue academic/vocational/technical/entrepreneurial career tracks, we partnered with Mama Sita Foundation to give PSO students alternative opportunities to test their skills by introducing a Culinary Competition. Furthermore, this project is consistent with the ongoing campaign by government and cultural agencies to encourage explorations into Filipino culinary tradition in order to promote our heritage among diaspora communities as well as in the mainstream worldwide.

SEE Attachment#3: Project Brief/Mechanics of the PSO Culinary Competition

2. **Additional Refinements** – Inasmuch as our objective is to equip our PSO students with the necessary food preparation skills, develop an appreciation for their culinary heritage and knowledgeable on cooking processes occasioned by the hectic pace of modern life, we have introduced a unique mode of presenting the entries to this competition as follows:
 - a. **Entry Levels** – PSOs may submit ONE ENTRY PER GRADE LEVEL CATEGORY, i.e., primary, intermediate and secondary level.
 - b. **Faculty Adviser** – Each Team should have a Faculty Adviser.
 - c. **Set Meals** – Participating Teams should prepare “Set Meals” consisting of a Main Viand, Complementary Vegetable Siding or Dish and Dessert.
 - d. **Dual Mode of Main Viand** – Participating Teams should prepare the Main Viand in TWO WAYS, i.e., one preparation from “scratch” and a second preparation using a Mama Sita product.
 - e. **Documentation** – Supporting information on research, methodology, recipe, and other relevant data should be submitted in narrative form, including photo/video documentation.
 - f. **Judging & Elimination** – As stated in the Project Mechanics, each PSO should conduct its own judging and elimination process.
 - g. **Finalists** – Each PSO is entitled to submit ONE winning entry PER LEVEL CATEGORY.
 - h. **Demonstration & Final Judging** – The finals and food tasting will be held in the Philippines (venue to be determined). The board of judges will consist of a team of culinary experts, i.e., chefs, culinary schools administrators/faculty, gourmets, restaurateurs, food writers media, etc.
 - i. **Prizes** – While Mama Sita has agreed to donate major prizes, additional awards may be solicited from other sponsors where possible.

Deadline for Confirmation of PSO Participation: October 31, 2013

Deadline for Submission of PSO Entries & Documentation: January 31, 2013

Tentative Date for Demonstration & Final Judging: April or May 2014

In closing, should you have further questions on ANY OF THE ABOVE PROJECTS – please do not hesitate to email the CFO-PSO Special Projects Team as follows:

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Attachments:

#1: List of PSOs without Virtual Sentro Rizal copies

#2: Announcement on the 4th International Conference on Filipino as a Global Language

#3: Project Brief/Mechanics of the PSO Culinary Competition

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